

The President's Daily Brief

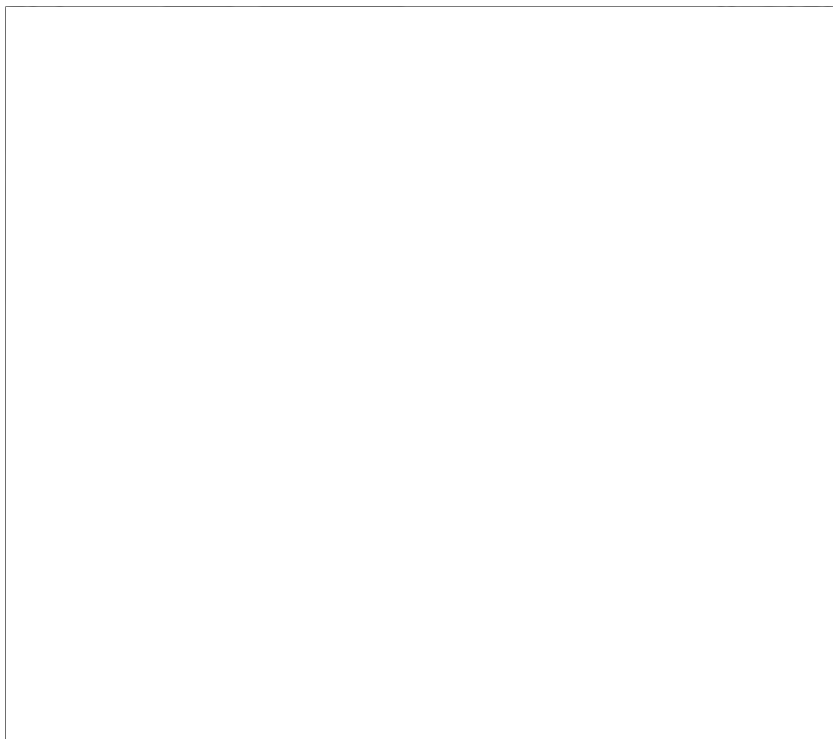
~~Top Secret~~ 10 October 1968



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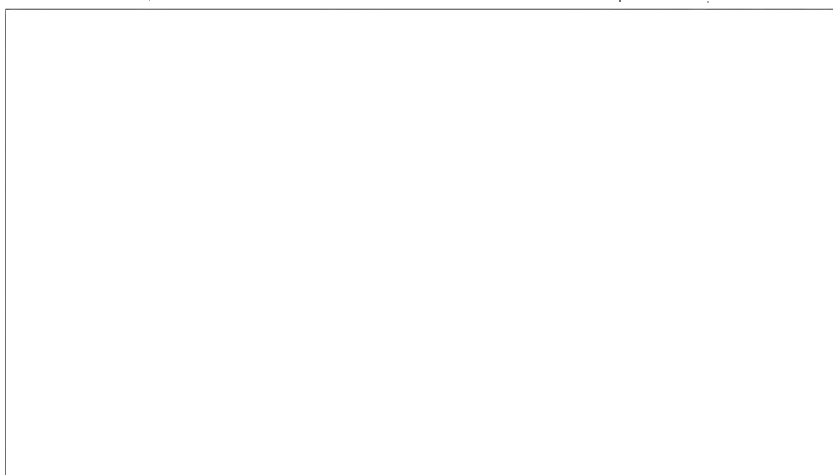
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 OCTOBER 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Panama



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3. Portugal

The Portuguese foreign minister called in Ambassador Bennett on Monday to make it "unequivocally clear" that the policy of the Caetano government with respect to its overseas territories "will not change in the slightest."

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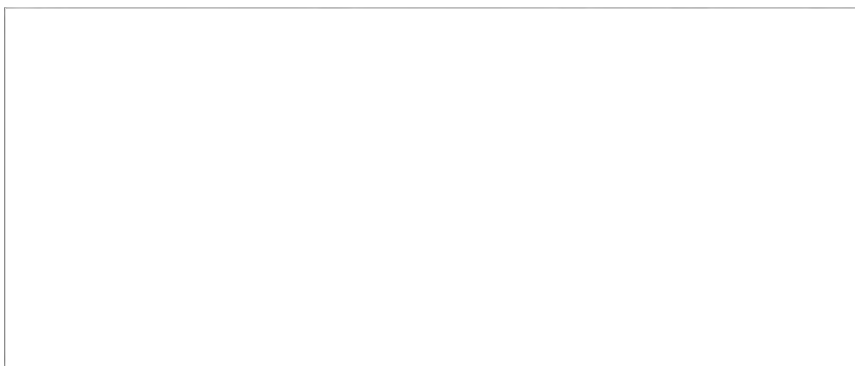
4. Brazil

Bloody student rioting erupted again in Sao Paulo on Tuesday when a massive police effort was needed to break up a demonstration. The embassy in Rio sustained minor damage in another outburst yesterday. The students are protesting "dictatorship," police brutality, and the killing of a fellow student, in addition to their usual demands for educational reform. More on the student problem in Latin America is at Annex.

5. Soviet Union - Finland

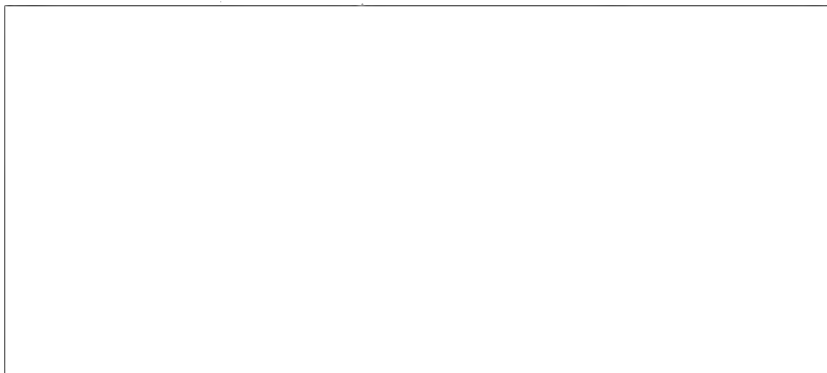
We presume that Kosygin made his trip to Finland--announced yesterday--to warn Kekkonen about the anti-Soviet sentiment that has developed since the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Kosygin certainly was the right man for the job. He and Kekkonen were the ones who held a pup tent summit meeting last summer during a fishing trip to the Soviet Far East.

6. Soviet Union - Middle East



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7. Jordan-Britain



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ANNEX

Latin American Students

The anniversary of Che Guevara's arrest and execution this week has produced only faint rumblings among the students of Latin America; there has been no sign of coordinated action throughout the continent. In Mexico, where the student problem is the most serious, the agitators have been lying low since the major violence of a week ago and are now trying to decide on future strategy. Their demands, however, are unchanged--disbanding the riot police, freeing all political prisoners, compensating students hurt in clashes with security forces, and firing the mayor of Mexico City.

In Uruguay, the situation has its own national flavor. The students started rioting to protest against a government raid on the national university. Later they changed their tactics and demonstrated against the government's refusal to lift a state of siege which had been imposed during the summer. They also joined with labor to demand an end to a wage freeze. There were student fatalities as a result of some of these demonstrations, producing student "martyrs" and in turn more rioting as the students protested government "brutality." Disorders have eased somewhat recently, but it is likely that the radical leadership will soon drum up more demonstrations with more violence.

In Brazil, students have repeatedly asked the government to implement badly needed educational reforms. Better teachers, better facilities, and an updated curriculum are high on their list of demands. In response, the Costa e Silva government has conducted numerous studies of the archaic educational system. So far, however, it has failed to make any changes. There will eventually be some action, but this is likely to be too little and too late to satisfy the students.

At this point, we have no evidence that the student riots in the various Latin American countries are interrelated or directed from abroad. It is true, however, that local Communists, Trotskyites, Castroites, and other extremists on the left have been quick--and evidently well prepared--to exploit the student grievances.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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10 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

10 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hard Line in Paris: In discussing Hanoi's position on negotiations [redacted]

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[redacted] in Paris on 7 October, a North Vietnamese press spokesman took an extremely hard line.

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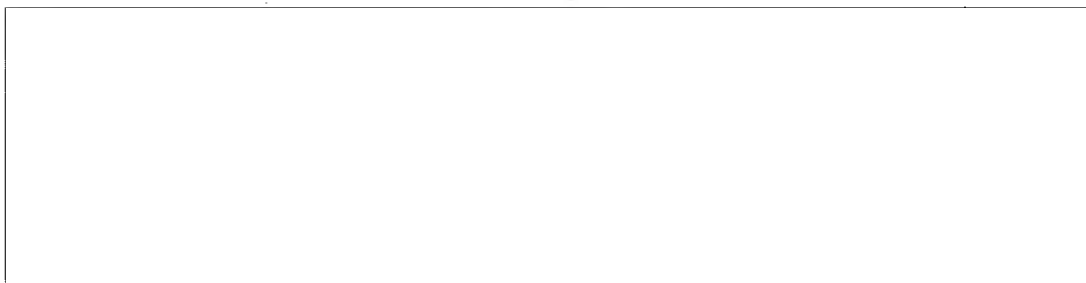
He said that Hanoi considered the Paris talks a good propaganda forum and would continue them as long as they served North Vietnamese purposes. According to the spokesman, the talks gain time for the Communist military effort which he called the key element of Hanoi's strategy.

The North Vietnamese press officer claimed Hanoi could never agree to restoration of the Demilitarized Zone since Vietnam was one country and Hanoi had to fight the Americans "wherever they are." He also restated North Vietnam's position on the bombing halt, indicating the US had to cease aerial reconnaissance and naval bombardments as well.

The spokesman repeated that Hanoi would not negotiate with the present Saigon leadership. He said the National Liberation Front, along with South Vietnamese elements which call for US withdrawal from Vietnam, would be the parties to any discussion on a coalition government.

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Hard Line in Djakarta: Representatives of both the Liberation Front and the Hanoi government recently told leftist newsmen in Djakarta that the Communists plan additional large-scale attacks in South Vietnam. In the meantime the Communists are concentrating on keeping the pressure on Danang and Tay Ninh. The correspondents claimed that Hanoi had little hope of achieving any important US concessions in the Paris talks, and had now decided to pursue a military victory in South Vietnam.

These two officials frequently volunteer their own version of future Communist intentions. Although they probably do not stray too far from the general tone of the regime's current line, they are not apt to be well informed of the details of future military plans.

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Pipeline Under Construction: The Communists are constructing a pipeline system in southern North Vietnam. Aerial photography of 8 September has located an additional two miles of pipeline in Ha Tinh Province. A total of 32 miles of line has now been observed in Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces since late July. Much of the pipeline construction appears to have been done since the bombing halt.

The pipeline has been under heavy air attack since first located and probably has never been operational. Nevertheless, the importance attached by the Communists to the line is suggested by the speedy repair or by-passing of damaged sections.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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